

**North Boone Community Unit School District No. 200**  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the  
Board of Education  
District Office  
6248 North Boone School Road, Poplar Grove, Illinois 61065  
Monday, February 28, 2011  
6:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Don Ward.

Present: President Don Ward, Vice President Denise Balsley, Secretary/Treasurer Laura Zwart, Mr. Bradley Crull, Mr. John Ellingson and Mr. Glen Gratz  
Absent: Mr. Tom Kinser

Dr. Baule explained that there was a lot of confusion about what is occurring with the music program. He assured everyone that all of the current music programs will remain in place for next year. However, changes will be necessary in order to maximize the use of our teachers.

**AUDIENCE TO VISITORS**

Connor Carmody stated that the French class has opened doors for him that he never knew existed and that four years of a foreign language is necessary to get into college.

Jen Davies commented that the music program offered by Mr. & Mrs. Aska has surpassed anything she has seen in any other school district. The students view this class as a haven. Not every child learns in the same way, and they need to have the ability to use their creative gifts. She asked that no cuts be made to the music program.

Susan Weiss recalled that the previous music teacher was so busy he had no time to enhance the music program. The students are doing "great" with the program as it is. The students don't have access to other sources for music because they live in a rural community.

Joe Bomher, President of the North Boone Music Boosters, spoke in support of the music program. He noted that there was an "incredible" amount of support from the parents in the community for this program, and the Board needed to take full measure of a cost/benefit analysis. He asked the Board to find a way to keep the music program as is.

Chris Cummings recited the occupations listed in the Bureau of Labor Statistics. He stated that the average mean salary of those in the arts was higher than any other job, and cuts to the music program would limit the students' futures.

Carrie Smith noted that the music program had been cut in the previous school district in which she lived, and she could not see the value of doing this. If the program is lost, the community loses. She then read an excerpt from a writing by Mike Huckabee.

Mary Maxey stated that Mr. & Mrs. Aska have made the music program in the district something of which the entire community can be proud. She is also involved with the Sister Cities program and spoke highly of the French program's involvement with it. She also asked that her child not lose the opportunity to take higher level classes.

Ann Mylin handed out copies of a letter from Joan Lund, President of the Boone County Chapter of the Sister Cities Association, to the North Boone School District. It reiterates how cutting the French program would be a major blow to their program since North Boone High School is the only high school in Boone County with a French program. French helps the students to raise their scores in other classes, will be useful in their future careers and is a world language. At this time, the French Club is raising funds to support a French student in Africa. She stressed the importance of having two foreign languages available for the students in the district.

Scott Aska spoke about the many positive things that have occurred in the music program since he and Mrs. Aska have been with the district. Because of the foundation that has been laid in music at the lower levels, North Boone students are now able to compete with other schools.

Leslie Aska stated that she could understand the challenges facing the Board today because of the reduction in funding for education. However she and Mr. Aska have offered numerous quality music programs in the district, and she has received many compliments on her students' musical abilities.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Mrs. Balsley and seconded by Mrs. Zwart to approve the Agenda. The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

#### **A. Library/Media Report**

Mrs. Lenser stated that as part of the library grant, a report is required each year highlighting the special things that are happening in the schools' libraries. She reviewed the following:

1. Follett Destiny
2. Grant from North Boone Foundation for bilingual and Spanish books
3. Four Choice Book awards
4. Reading motivation such as Scholastic Reading Counts
5. High School library kept open until 5:00 p.m. before finals
6. Teachers received technical training in media

In conclusion, she added that the libraries are very busy places in which students are reading, studying and checking out books.

**B. Teen Workshop Committee**

Mrs. Louis and Mrs. Istad reported on the recent teen workshop that occurred on April 29, 2010. It turned out to be a big success. They reviewed a survey given to teachers, students and presenters and the many positive comments they received.

This year's teen workshop will be held on May 5<sup>th</sup> at the middle school, and the focus will be on careers. Many of the staff will speak and the presenters will be members of the surrounding community. The students will have the choice to enroll in seven of the following topics that will be offered: athletic training, professional athletics, agricultural business, attorney, aviation, chef/baker, computer technology, cosmetology, home building, law enforcement, mechanic, media advertising, media personality, emergency medical service, nursing, performing arts, photography, physician, restaurateur, teaching and veterinary science. A special session will be available for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Mrs. Louis and Mrs. Istad thanked all those who made donations for food, water and their time.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Baule reported on the numerous summer school programs that will be offered this year. Camp Invention will be offered for upper elementary and middle school students on a tuition basis. It will be held at Poplar Grove Elementary during the week of June 20, and Allison Louis will be the director. Summer school will also be offered for students in grades 5-12, ESL and Special Education Extended School year. The programs for grades 5-12 is scheduled for June 13-30 and will also be on a tuition basis. An on-line program will be offered for high school students for credit recovery and to help students meet promotion and graduation timelines. The program for ESL and Special Education will be held at Poplar Grove Elementary from June 13-30. This program will be required based on student IEPs.

Dr. Baule attended a legislative breakfast on Saturday, February 27. It appears that the state is serious about passing a balanced budget; however, it is anticipated that school districts will receive a 10% reduction in state funding from this year's levels.

The principals commented that the MAP testing went very well. This testing will be beneficial in identifying the status of each student's knowledge level.

The Regional Office of Education was in the district offices on February 17 and 18 to conduct their compliance review. Their results should be available shortly.

Dr. Baule met with Boone County State's Attorney Michelle Courier on February 28 to discuss the development of a county truancy ordinance. He is working with the State's Attorney, sheriff's office and District 100 on this ordinance. Mr. Hubert attended the Boone County Gang Task Force organizational meeting and will act on North Boone's behalf.

Dr. Baule also met with the Poplar Grove Village finance committee. The committee seemed eager to collaborate with the district in combining our purchasing power.

Tracy Peed and Kathy Gustafson are attending PowerSchool University this week. Also, the attendance issues in PowerSchool have been resolved at this time.

Dr. Baule thanked Sharon Olds and Jane Lenser for their time and effort in working on the Technology Plan. It has been filed with the Illinois State Board of Education for their approval.

The Math Committee reviewed the math audit. Their recommendations indicate that the district needs to develop a much stronger math program.

Dr. Baule reported that the on-line application process has turned out to be a success. We are receiving many more applications for our job postings and this process should help deepen the district's candidate pool and provide access to more qualified candidates.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Policy Committee**

Mrs. Balsley reported that the Policy Committee last met on February 7, 2011. The next Policy Committee meeting was scheduled for Monday, March 7, 2011 at 4:15 p.m.

### **Business Services Committee**

Mrs. Zwart reported that the Business Services Committee did not meet in January. The next Business Services Committee meeting was scheduled for Monday, March 14, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

### **Facility/Long Range Planning Committee**

A Facility/Long Range Planning Committee meeting has not been held. The next meeting is to be determined.

### **Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Committee**

A Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Committee meeting has not been held. The next meeting is to be determined.

### **Other Committee Reports**

Mrs. Zwart reported that the Community Involvement Committee did not meet on February 2, 2011 because of the weather conditions. She added that the Committee has over \$12,000 in revenue and donations. She acknowledged and thanked Mr. & Mrs. Gene Peters for their generous contribution of \$900. The next Community Involvement Committee meeting was scheduled for March 2, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer's Report was submitted to the Board.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Mrs. Balsley and seconded by Mr. Crull to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

- A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting January 24, 2011
- B. Minutes of the Special Meeting January 26, 2011
- C. Personnel

Site	Person	Position	Salary	Effective/End Date
<b>1. Certified Hire</b>				
NBHS/NBMS	Melissa Ford	Special Education Teacher	BSED, Step 2	March 1, 2011
<b>2. Extra Curricular Hire (Pending Completion of Required State Forms)</b>				
NBHS	Rita Lee	Head Softball Coach	Group II, Step 0	2010-2011 School Year
<b>3. Leave of Absence</b>				
Manchester	Pam Boens	Kindergarten Teacher	N/A	2011-2012 School Year
<b>4. Retirement</b>				
NBMS	Wes Wittmus	Physical Education /Health Teacher	N/A	End of 2010-2011 School Year
<b>5. Resignation</b>				
NBUE	Michael Greenlee	Principal	N/A	June 30, 2011
Transportation	Cathy Fiebig	Bus Driver	N/A	January 21, 2011

- D. First Reading and Approval of Policies
- E. Reschedule Regular Board Meeting from March 15, 2011 to March 21, 2011 at 6:30 PM
- F. Overnight Field Trip Request – Ag/FFA

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. Second Reading and Approval of Policy 7:190**

Mrs. Balsley explained that this policy has come back for approval since the Board had reviewed it at their last meeting.

A motion was made by Mrs. Balsley and seconded by Mr. Crull to approve Policy 7:190. The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. February 2011 Bills**

A motion was made by Mrs. Zwart and seconded by Mr. Crull to approve the February 2011 Bills

Ayes: Mr. Crull, Mr. Ellingson, Mr. Gratz, Mr. Ward, Mrs. Zwart

Nays: *(None)*

Abstain: Mrs. Balsley

Motion passed 5-0, with one abstention.

**B. After-School Enrichment Program**

Mr. Klett informed the Board that the after-school enrichment program would start on March 1, 2011 for K-2 students. The program will have one teacher and approximately ten students. No transportation will be provided by the district.

A motion was made by Mrs. Balsley and seconded by Mr. Gratz to approve the After-School Enrichment Program.

The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

**C. Preliminary 2011-2012 Staffing Plan**

Dr. Baule recalled that the Technology Director position had not been filled for this year and he did not recommend that it be filled for the 2011-2012 school year to help reduce the budget. A recommendation for the middle school/upper elementary principal will be made at the March Board meeting. There may be some kind of reduction in the K-4 PE staff. No changes are expected in the Pre-K and Early Childhood staffing at Capron, and he expected the current eight sections will remain for the next school year. Dr. Baule also anticipated a need for six to seven sections at Manchester next year, and the district may need to add additional bilingual support at Manchester. The food service programs are being reviewed, and there may be some recommended changes when the district receives the official results of the ISBE food audit. A recommendation will be made to reorganize the exploratory courses based on solid academic need and not simply available staff at the middle school. He expected to be able to provide classes for those students currently in French for them to complete four years of that language. This year, our Special Education Director, Kim Moore, is in the district only 1/5 of her time; however, he will be proposed that she be in district 4/5 of her time next year. The district will save approximately \$100,000 by bringing eight special education students back into the district from Belvidere. There will be no changes in the offerings in the music programs. The only change in the French program would be to eliminate the exploratory program. In summary, Dr. Baule expects to recommend a reduction of 2.5 certified teachers and a few non-certified personnel for the 2011-2012 school year.

President Ward surveyed the members as to their preferences regarding the French program, and it appeared they were divided.

Dr. Baule stated that, because of statutory deadlines, action must be taken at the next Board meeting in March. Although not the best scenario, personnel can always be brought back should funding become available, but if the funding is not adequate, the Board will not be able make the needed reductions in staff after the deadline.

A motion was made by Mr. Ellingson and seconded by Mrs. Zwart to approve the Preliminary 2011-2012 Staff Plan.

Ayes: Mrs. Balsley, Mr. Crull, Mr. Ellingson, Mr. Ward, Mrs. Zwart

Nays: Mr. Gratz

Motion passed 5-1.

The Board directed administration to prepare an additional 5% reduction in staffing for their review.

**D. Transportation Committee Report**

Mrs. Olds reported that this committee held three meetings. The committee consisted of bus drivers, parents and teachers. Their following recommendations are in order of priority:

1. Establish anti-idling policy
2. Combine bus routes
3. Work with other districts/entities to increase buying power
4. Work to eliminate transportation to school for students within a 1.5 mile radius in the Villages of Poplar Grove and Capron

5. Establish a fee for route changes
6. Increase amounts charged for charter services
7. Decrease activity bus to one time per week
8. Reduce other supply costs beyond fuel

**E. Athletic/Student Activities Committee Report**

Mr. Klett reported that this committee consisted of teachers, coaches and parents. Their recommendations are as follows:

1. Do not cut any athletics/student activities
2. Raise fees for sports
3. Charge a fee for non-athletic extracurricular participation
4. Adjust gym rental rates
5. Bring back dance at the middle school and combine it with cheerleading to form a Spirit Squad

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made at 9:03 p.m. by Mrs. Balsley and seconded by Mr. Gratz to recess to Executive Session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees; student discipline; or other matters provided for pursuant to §2(c) of the Open Meetings Act.

The motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

The following members were present: President Don Ward, Vice President Denise Balsley, Secretary/Treasurer Laura Zwart, Mr. Bradley Crull, Mr. John Ellingson and Mr. Glen Gratz. The following Board member was absent: Mr. Tom Kinser.

The Open Session of the Board of Education was called to order at 10:37 p.m. by President Don Ward.

Present: President Don Ward, Vice President Denise Balsley, Secretary/Treasurer Laura Zwart, Mr. Bradley Crull, Mr. Ellingson and Mr. Glen Gratz  
Absent: Mr. Tom Kinser

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion were made by Mrs. Balsley and seconded by Mrs. Zwart as follows:

1. Increase Kathy Prince's hours from 4 to 6 hours per day to accommodate seasonal grounds work, salary at Step 2, effective March 7, 2011. Mrs. Prince will return to her normal hours (4 hrs./day) at North Boone High School at the end of the fall sports season.
2. Recall Art Pankhurst for the Assistant Custodian position (4 hrs./day) at North Boone High School to be temporarily vacated by Kathy Prince, salary at Step 2, effective March 7, 2011 through the end of the fall sports season.
3. Approve a Side Letter to the contract for staff donations of no more than one sick day per staff member to Elizabeth Finnegan not to exceed forty (40) sick days.

The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER INFORMATION**

- A. **District Activities Calendar**
- B. **Enrollment**
- C. **FOIA Log**
- D. **Student Activity Fund Reports**

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mrs. Balsley and seconded by Mrs. Zwart to adjourn the meeting at 10:49 p.m. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

**PRESIDENT** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Don Ward**

**SECRETARY** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Laura Zwart**

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_